

**MAYOR**

James Thomas, Jr.

**CITY MANAGER**

Billy Edwards

**CITY CLERK**

Sarah Lumpkin

**CITY ATTORNEY**

Linnie L. Darden, III



**MAYOR PRO TEM**

Charles Frasier

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jason Floyd

David Anderson, Sr.

Keith Jenkins

Kenneth Shaw

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Essay winners become ‘Mayor for a Day’

Hinesville, GA — The City of Hinesville recently hosted its “If I Were Mayor...” essay winners at Hinesville City Hall on June 3 and 9.

The three essay contest winners were TiAndrea Alston and Casey Lower from Lewis Frasier Middle School and Gia Sabalboro from First Presbyterian Christian Academy. First and second place winners met with Mayor James Thomas to be ‘Mayor for the Day.’

Each student met in the mayor’s office to discuss city issues and programs. When asked what she liked most about Hinesville, Alston said, “I like all the activities there are to do but I want it to grow with more museums and parks.”

She also said more police protection and tourism would be her top initiatives as mayor.

“We’re proud of the essay you wrote and want to continue to hear from young people,” Thomas told her during the visit.

Lower was also given the opportunity to share her thoughts on the city of Hinesville during her visit on June 3.

“I wish the people would be more interactive with the city instead of letting it fall apart and making other people work for it because I came from Colorado Springs and everyone wanted to help out with the community but nobody does here.”

Thomas reassured Lower that there are many civilian and military people in the community who do good things. He encouraged her to attend some of the community events to see how partnerships and collaboration are present in the area, and she agreed.

After giving suggestions on what they would do as mayor, Alston and Lower toured Hinesville City Hall and received a city coin. To read their essays and ideas, visit [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org)

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*“Home for a Day or a Lifetime”*

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*The City of Hinesville is the county seat and largest city in Liberty County. It is a progressive and pro business community that welcomes all. With a population of more than 30,000, Hinesville is also one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. For more information, please visit [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org).*

*For more information and interviews, contact Krystal Hart at (912) 876-3564 or [khart@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:khart@cityofhinesville.org).*

Photos and captions by Krystal Hart

DSC\_0476: Casey Lower (far left) shares her plans for Hinesville with Mayor James Thomas (left center) during her visit to Hinesville City Hall on June 3. Lower was the second place winner for the mayor's essay contest. Also pictured are Stacy and Chase Lower.

DSC\_0479: Casey Lower (left) receives a city coin from Hinesville Mayor James Thomas (right) For writing the second place essay in the 2015 mayor's essay contest. She, along with her mother Stacy and brother Chase Lower, visited Hinesville City Hall on June 3 to be "Mayor for the Day" And claim her prizes.

DSC\_0493: TiAndrea Alston (left) receives a city coin from Hinesille Mayor James Thomas for writing the winning essay in the 2015 mayor's essay contest. She visited Hinesville City Hall on June 9 to be "Mayor for the Day" and claim her prizes.

DSC\_0494: The Alston family poses for a photo with Hinesville Mayor James Thomas (right) during a visit to Hinesville City Hall on June 9. TiAndrea Alston (right center) was the first place winner in the 2015 mayor's essay contest.

*"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"*